(e)if so, whether Government are considering to ban such free eye camps operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Out of 47 cases operated at Periyakulam, in Theni District of Tamil Nadu, 28 patients developed post-operative infection. Out of these, 8 patients improved vision after treatment. 20 patients are being treated at Rajaji Hospital, Mdurai.

(b) Enquiry was conducted by a committee constituted by State Government of Tamil Nadu consisting of Deputy Director of Tamil Nadu State Blindness Control Society and Director & Superintendent of Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore, Chennai.

(c) Source of infection has not been established.

(d) Two such mishaps have come to the notice of Government one in the District of Bhuj, Gujarat where 2 persons lost their eye sight in May 2002 and another at Ludhiana, Punjab in October 2002 where 35 persons lost their vision.

(e) Specific guidelines have been issued to all Districts/States/ UTs to conduct cataract eye surgery at fixed facilities where permanent Operation Theatre facilities are available. To ensure quality of surgery, clinical practice modules on quality assurance in cataract surgery and general precaution to safeguard against post operative infection have been issued by Government of India.

Selling of Banned Drugs

1130. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many combination of drugs being sold in the open markets that are either disapproved or banned by the Drug Controller of India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to keep a check on such combination of drugs so that they are not made available to the public; and

(c) the details of the measures taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sale of any prohibited drug is monitored by State Drug Control Authorities and they have been advised to keep a constant check on such sales.

Financial Assistance to Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Kolkata

1131. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have stopped providing financial assistace to Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, by when the next instalment of fund from National Illness Assistance Fund is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) During the year 2002-2003 an amount of Rs. 8.00 lakhs has been released to the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata from the National Illness Assistance Fund. Apart from this an amount of Rs. 309.00 lakhs for meeting Non-Plan expenditure and Rs. 600.00 lakhs for meeting Plan expenditure have also been released to the Institute during 2002-03.

Aids Vaccine

1132. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR is developing AIDS vaccine;

(b) if so, the details of research;